



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

Committee Bill No. 479

LCO No. 4647



Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION

Introduced by:
(TRA)

AN ACT AUTHORIZING SPECIAL TAX OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE STATE FOR UPGRADES TO RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2015*) (a) The State Bond Commission shall
2 have power, in accordance with the provisions of this section, from
3 time to time to authorize the issuance of special tax obligation bonds of
4 the state in one or more series and in principal amounts in the
5 aggregate, not exceeding four billion dollars, provided (1) one
6 hundred million dollars shall be effective July 1, 2016, (2) two hundred
7 million dollars shall be effective July 1, 2017, (3) two hundred million
8 dollars shall be effective July 1, 2018, (4) four hundred million dollars
9 shall be effective July 1, 2019, (5) four hundred million dollars shall be
10 effective July 1, 2020, (6) four hundred million dollars shall be effective
11 July 1, 2021, (7) six hundred million dollars shall be effective July 1,
12 2022, (8) eight hundred million dollars shall be effective July 1, 2023,
13 and (9) eight hundred million dollars shall be effective July 1, 2024.

14 (b) The proceeds of the sale of such bonds to the extent hereinafter
15 stated, shall be used for the purpose of payment of the transportation
16 costs, as defined in subdivision (6) of section 13b-75 of the general

17 statutes, with respect to the projects and uses described in this section,
18 which projects and uses are hereby found and determined to be in
19 furtherance of one or more of the authorized purposes for the issuance
20 of special tax obligation bonds set forth in section 13b-74 of the general
21 statutes. Any proceeds from the sale of such bonds shall be used by the
22 Department of Transportation for the following purposes and projects:

23 (1) On the Danbury rail line: (A) The electrification of the Danbury
24 rail line, to be undertaken in phases, first from Norwalk to Wilton, and
25 then from Wilton to Danbury, and (B) the extension of passenger
26 service to New Milford;

27 (2) On the Waterbury rail line: (A) The improvements necessary to
28 increase the number and frequency of trains running on the Waterbury
29 rail line, and (B) the addition of stops at stations in Seymour, Shelton
30 and Derby;

31 (3) On the New Canaan rail line: Upgrades and improvements to
32 the train station, including erecting a canopy; and

33 (4) On the Housatonic rail line: (A) Ensure that any transportation
34 master plan includes the Housatonic rail line as an integral part of the
35 state's overall transportation investment plan, and that such plans
36 align with Massachusetts' plan to upgrade or invest in the section of
37 the Berkshire rail line from Pittsfield to the Connecticut border, and (B)
38 improve conditions on the Housatonic rail line for freight service,
39 while planning for the addition of passenger service.

40 (c) None of such bonds shall be authorized except upon a finding by
41 the State Bond Commission that there has been filed with it (1) a
42 request for such authorization, that is signed by the Secretary of the
43 Office of Policy and Management or by or on behalf of said state
44 officer, department or agency and stating such terms and conditions as
45 said commission, in its discretion, may require, and (2) any capital
46 development impact statement and any human services facility
47 colocation statement required to be filed with the Secretary of the

48 Office of Policy and Management pursuant to section 4b-23 of the
49 general statutes, any advisory report regarding the state conservation
50 and development policies plan required pursuant to section 16a-31 of
51 the general statutes, and any statement regarding farm land required
52 pursuant to subsection (g) of section 3-20 of the general statutes and
53 section 22-6 of the general statutes, provided the State Bond
54 Commission may authorize such bonds without a finding that the
55 reports and statements required by this subdivision have been filed
56 with it if said commission authorizes the secretary of said commission
57 to accept such reports and statements on its behalf. No funds derived
58 from the sale of bonds authorized by said commission without a
59 finding that the reports and statements required by this subdivision
60 have been filed with it shall be allotted by the Governor for any project
61 until the reports and statements required by this subdivision, with
62 respect to such project, have been filed with the secretary of said
63 commission.

64 (d) For the purposes of this section, each request filed as provided in
65 this section for an authorization of bonds shall identify the project for
66 which the proceeds of the sale of such bonds are to be used and
67 expended and, in addition to any terms and conditions required
68 pursuant to this section, include the recommendation of the person
69 signing such request as to the extent to which federal, private or other
70 moneys then available or thereafter to be made available for costs in
71 connection with any such project should be added to the state moneys
72 available or becoming available from the proceeds of bonds and
73 temporary notes issued in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds of
74 bonds. If the request includes a recommendation that some amount of
75 such federal, private or other moneys should be added to such state
76 moneys, then, if and to the extent directed by the State Bond
77 Commission at the time of authorization of such bonds, such amount
78 of such federal, private or other moneys then available or thereafter to
79 be made available for costs in connection with such project shall be
80 added to such state moneys.

81 (e) Any balance of proceeds of the sale of such bonds authorized for
 82 the projects or purposes of this section, in excess of the aggregate costs
 83 of all the projects so authorized, shall be used in the manner set forth
 84 in sections 13b-74 to 13b-77, inclusive, of the general statutes, and in
 85 the proceedings of the State Bond Commission respecting the issuance
 86 and sale of such bonds.

87 (f) Such bonds issued pursuant to this section shall be special
 88 obligations of the state and shall not be payable from or charged upon
 89 any funds other than revenues of the state pledged therefor in
 90 subsection (b) of section 13b-61 of the general statutes and section 13b-
 91 69 of the general statutes, or such other receipts, funds or moneys as
 92 may be pledged therefor. Such bonds shall not be payable from or
 93 charged upon any funds other than such pledged revenues or such
 94 other receipts, funds or moneys as may be pledged therefor, nor shall
 95 the state or any political subdivision thereof be subject to any liability
 96 thereon, except to the extent of such pledged revenues or such other
 97 receipts, funds or moneys as may be pledged therefor. Such bonds
 98 shall be issued under and in accordance with the provisions of sections
 99 13b-74 to 13b-77, inclusive, of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	July 1, 2015	New section
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Statement of Purpose:

To finance infrastructure improvements on certain rail lines.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: SEN. BOUCHER, 26th Dist.

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